International support to Pakistan on Kashmir Issue

*271. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that on January 4, 2002, when Pakistan's spokesperson announced from Kathmandu that struggle of Kashmiris for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, recognizing right of the poeple of Jammu and Kashmir for self determination, was their indigenous movement and could by no stretch of imagination be called terrorism, the British Prime Minister from Bangalore and the U.S. Defence Secretary of State from Washington supported Pak-position as strong; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto to set the international scenario in right perspective?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistani spokesmen do continue with their futile endeavours to justify Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. Government rejects this outright, and is firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat cross bord r terrorism. There is clear and widespread consensus in the international community today that there is no justification for terrorism.

The United States has on a number of occasions stated that terrorism will be fought everywhere, including as manifest in Jammu and Kashmir, and that nothing can be used to justify terrorism anywhere in the world. In the New Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Minister of India and the United Kingdom on 6th January 2002, both Prime Ministers rejected the arguments of those who attempt to justify terrorism, and emphasized that in all its forms terrorism must be condemned unambiguously and eradicated wherever it exists.